



Camp Cresset

Finley's Brigade

Camp #1614

Havana, Florida

www.finleysbrigadescv.com



"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, UCV Commander General



January Camp Meeting

Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 will hold its monthly Meeting on January 9th at the VFW. Social time at 6:00 and meeting at 6:45.



The Dixie Highway Marker in Florida

Cmdr. Kelly Crocker



Courtesy of the State of Florida Archives

The Dixie Highway system began to be developed about 1915 and eventually became a series of roads from Michigan to Miami, Florida.

In Florida, the beginning was at the Georgia/Florida State line, which is now US Hwy 319. Many "Dixie Highway" markers began to appear in the 1920's along the road system in the North and the South.

In 1927, The United Daughters of the Confederacy placed the Florida marker at Bradfordville, Florida near the intersection of US Hwy 319 and Bannerman Road. There was a dedication Service with great fanfare. At some point, the



Courtesy of the State of Florida Archives

monument was relocated closer to Tallahassee proper, near the entrance of Maclay Gardens. The monument stayed there without incident until US Highway 319 was widened to six lanes in the late 1990's/early 2000's.

During road construction, the monument was stored in an equipment shed at Maclay Gardens State Park. During the storage period, **Anna Jackson Chapter 224 UDC President Sue Cowger** negotiated with the Road Contractor for a new location and for the monument's re-installation. Also, during this time, minor repairs were completed on the monument by Compatriot **Rocky Bevis**. It is unclear when the monument

was moved to its current location, but probably after 2010. The photo shows the monument with reconditioned plaque at the time of its re-installation.

In 2021, some evil perpetrator stole the plaque off the monument. The plaque had very little "scrap" value since it was iron and not bronze.

Last year, 2023, **Finley's Brigade, Anna Jackson UDC, and the Historic Cemetery Preservation of North Florida, Inc.** decided to restore the dignity of this monument. We consulted with our friend **Charles Hall of Hall Monuments of Donalsonville, GA** on options for restoration. Mr. Hall recommended engraving the existing marble instead of installing another plaque.



Mr. Hall designed the engraving on the monument as it stands now.

Historic Cemetery Preservation did the landscaping around the monument.



Wreaths for Veterans



Photo by Stan Willis

Tuesday night, December 19, members of the **Mary Ann Harvey Black, Chapter 5 of the OCR** made Christmas Wreaths to be placed in the Confederate Section of Old City Cemetery in Tallahassee. On Saturday, December 23, members of **Finley's Brigade and Mary Ann Harvey Black** placed those wreaths in the cemetery. Wreaths were also placed on about seven confederate graves in other parts of the cemetery.



Photo by John Bess



Photo by Gerald Bell

War Service Metals



The Sons of Confederate Veterans headquarters issues Service Metals to honor individuals of Confederate descent who have served in our country's military service during wartime. This award consists of two items: (1) a large medal with one conflict bar and (2) certificate. Miniature medal, lapel pins and additional conflict bars for which the member is authorized are also available for purchase.

Compatriot Reggie Roddenberry recently received his metal and shared it with us.

Forms are available for each veteran to apply for a metal. It will be an impressive addition to your uniform.

The Crypt Keeper's Report

J. R. Miller



The headstone has been received for **Benjamin Saxon**. The application was originally denied by the V.A. but was later approved. His headstone arrived six days after its approval, which I believe is a record.

Mr. Saxon died in the line of duty. He was sheriff of Hernando Co. when he died in Tallahassee. The design for the extra emblem and wording for the back of his headstone has been settled on and is in the hands of Halls Monuments. I will set a date for the installation at a later date.

Headstone applications for **J.Q. Gallagher and Edward Gallagher** (no known relation) have been completed and mailed. All are buried in the Tallahassee Old City Cemetery. The headstones have been delivered and will be sent to Hall Monuments for extra engraving. The replacement headstone for **Hugh Black** has been received and was delivered to Hall Monuments. A template was created, the inscription was engraved, and the headstone is back in our hands. I have not scheduled a work day for the removal of the existing headstone and the planting of the new replacement headstone. I will let the camp know when the work day is scheduled at Fort Braden Cemetery.

An alternate date of December 2 was scheduled to paint the fence at Solders Cemetery in Quincy. As some may not know the original date of the 21st of October was scheduled. Unfortunately, I had an accident that morning and the paint was ruined in the process. I was on crutches for a few weeks. The only thing that was done at Solders was the planting of a tree. It appears that we are in a weather pattern that includes wet weather on the weekends. I have decided to not plan anything till after the New Year.

P.S. for our Lee/Jackson I am issuing a rare book alert. I was able to acquire a new, never been sold before, first edition, low printing (less than 2,500 printed), hardback book. This book will be put up at auction and will be awarded to the highest bidder. All I can say at this time is the book covers our time period and is a modern, not ancient, book about a certain geographic area of the lower south. This will make an excellent addition to your personal library. I obtained a copy for my personal library several years ago and still read it from time to time.

Bring your friends and your billfold! The Lee/Jackson is our major fund-raising event.

A 21-gun salute was offered at the graveside of Compatriot **James L. Harrell** on December 27, 2023. Jim had a passion for history and Civil War reenactments. He was a proud member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.





Chaplain's Corner

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing"

As a boy, I used to love to go to Aunt Ina and Uncle Herbert's in Warrenton, Georgia. Aunt Ina was my grandma's baby sister. She and Uncle Herbert lived in an old two-story farm house out in the country. There was a pond past the garden and through the woods. It was a great place, if you were a ten-year-old boy! The thing I liked the most was the old hand pump or "pitcher pump" just off the back porch in the yard.

I'm sure I've just lost most of the readers of this who are under fifty. A pitcher pump is a pump that is hand powered. One must work the handle up and down to get water in the ground up through the pipe and out through the spout. Now, here's the tricky part. One must always remember to save some water in a container during each use to "prime" the pump the next time it will be used. There was always a container of some kind, full of water by the pump. When I was really young, Daddy told me the reason for the "priming water." He said, "We have to use this little bit of water here to get to all that water down in the ground."

There is a Biblical principle here. PRAYER is the "priming water" to get to ALL the blessings that it will produce. Look in the Word of God, and you will find that anytime something great happened, back up just a little bit, and you will see that prayer was made. In the Book of Acts in Chapter 12, we see the account of the Apostle Peter being freed from Herod's prison. What brought that about? The "priming water" is in Verse 5: "*Peter therefore was kept in prison: but PRAYER WAS MADE without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*" In the Book of Acts again, this time in Chapter 4 and Verse 31. The writer (through the power of the Holy Ghost) says this: "*And WHEN THEY HAD PRAYED, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*"

Here is a good one. I will leave you with this challenge and something about which to think. James 5:16 says, "*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*"

My duties as Chaplain include assisting members in need. With that in mind, please let me know if you are aware of any who are sick, bereaved or in need of any services we may offer. Contact me as indicated below.

Chaplain Keith Lassiter
 (850) 567-0645
greynole01@yahoo.com

Commander's Corner

Compatriots.

I pray that each of you had a joyous Christmas and are looking forward to a wonderful new year. Please take a moment to remember the Harrell family. **Compatriot James L. Harrell** crossed over the river to rest in the shade of the trees, December 22nd. Finley's Brigade had the honor to stand casket watch and render military honors. Our next meeting will be dedicated to James.

As we begin this year 2024, I look forward to working with everyone to make it a year to remember. I am especially excited about several upcoming projects.

Our 32nd annual Lee / Jackson Heritage banquet will be held January 20th. None other than General Robert E. Lee will be our honored guest. Catering will be by "Texas Roadhouse." The deadline for tickets and ancestor memorials will be January 09, the night of our monthly meeting.

Several other projects upcoming will be the Battle of Natural Bridge. As usual, Finley's Brigade will be at the front, teaching the true history of the South.

I am very anxious to get the new year off to a great start, and I am counting on each of you to help make Finley's Brigade the standout camp I know we can be.

I am committed to this task. I hope you will be too.

Your faithful servant, in the bonds of the South!
Commander Mark R. Bess



Upcoming Heritage Events and Opportunities

Jan 9th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM

Jan 20th - Lee-Jackson Annual Banquet- Jackson Lodge #1, 2818 Apalachee Pkwy, Tallahassee

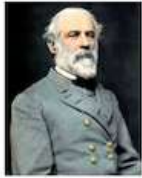
Feb 13th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM

Mar 2-3rd-Battle of Natural Bridge Reenactment, Woodville FL.

Mar 12th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM

Apr 9th - Regular Camp Meeting at VFW. Social Hour starts at 6:00 with the meeting at 6:45 PM





32nd Annual Lee & Jackson Southern Heritage Event



Hosted by

**Finley's Brigade Camp #1614, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Mary Ann Harvey Black Chapter #5, Order of Confederate Rose**

January 20, 2024

Social Hour: 5:00 PM Dinner/Program: 6:00 PM

**Jackson Lodge No. 1
2818 Apalachee Pkwy
Tallahassee, FL 32301**

**Tickets: \$45.00 in advance Door Prizes and Auction
Catering by "Texas Roadhouse"**

Special Guest Speaker: Mr. Thomas Jessee

Appearing as

General Robert E. Lee



**For tickets contact:
Adjutant Thomas Williams, 850-942-2866,
Adjutant@finleysbrigadescv.com
OR
Commander Mark R. Bess, (239) 240-9086
Markrbess@gmail.com**

